

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KUALA 04121 110938Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 AID-05
CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 FRB-03 INR-10 NSAE-00
ICA-11 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 LAB-04 SIL-01
OMB-01 /088 W
-----068750 111457Z /43

R 110815Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4171
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMCONSUL HONG KONG

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E.O.11652: N/A
TAGS: EGEN, EFIN, BGEN, MY
SUBJECT: GOM TO BOOST PUBLIC SECTOR SPENDING

1. GOM DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER MAHATHIR MOHAMED
ANNOUNCED ON MAY 10 THAT THE GOM WILL BE STEPPING
UP PUBLIC SECTOR INVESTMENT TO MAKE UP FOR THE
SHORTFALLS OF PRIVATE SECTOR INVESTMENT AND TO
ATTEMPT TO MEET THE INVESTMENT GOALS LAID OUT IN
THE THIRD MALAYSIA PLAN. MAHATHIR COMMENTED
THAT WHILE THE PETROLEUM SECTOR HAS RECEIVED LARGE
AMOUNTS OF INVESTMENT OTHER SECTORS OF THE ECONOMY
REMAIN SLUGGISH.

2. AREAS THAT THE DEPUTY PM POINTED OUT THAT COULD
UTILIZE GREATER PUBLIC SECTOR EXPENDITURES QUICKLY
ARE TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND THE BUILDING OF NEW EXPRESSWAYS
THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY. MAHATHIR POINTEDLY MENTIONED
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THAT FOREIGN CONSTRUCTION FIRMS WOULD BE WELCOME ON THE
EXPRESSWAY PROJECTS.

3. COMMENT: THE CAPABILITY OF GOM AGENCIES TO UTILIZE
FURTHER FUNDS AT THIS STAGE OF THE GAME IS OPEN TO
QUESTION. THE ECONOMIC PLANNING UNIT IS NOW
CONDUCTING THE MID TERM REVIEW OF THE THIRD MALAYSIA

PLAN AND SOURCES CLOSE TO THEIR REVIEW HAVE COMMENTED
THAT THE GREATEST FAILING IS IN EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS
ALLOCATED TO VARIOUS GOVERNMENT AGENCIES. CERTAIN
AGENCIES, OF COURSE, WILL BE ABLE TO USE THE FUNDS
BUT JUST HOW MUCH IMPACT THEY WILL HAVE ON THE OVERALL
INVESTMENT PICTURE REMAINS TO BE SEEN.
MILLER

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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